

# School-Based Dental Program **Q & A**

## **Why is Oral Health Important?**

Oral health has been shown to impact overall health and well-being. Approximately 30% of children in the North Country have evidence of untreated tooth decay (dental caries). Tooth decay, or dental caries, is the most common chronic disease among children, with dental care being the greatest unmet service need. If untreated, tooth decay is often painful and can disrupt learning, school performance, and daily activities.

## **What is a School-Based Dental Program?**

A school-based dental program provides dental services to students where they are – in school. Our dental program operates within a school building while the school is in session and serves the students enrolled in the school. The dental program uses portable equipment that is easily set up and broken down. The length of time spent at a site depends on the needs of the school.

## **What Services are Offered?**

Preventive services that we offer are screenings, cleanings, fluoride treatments, and sealants. Additionally, dental education is provided to individual students and can be provided in classroom sessions as well. Services are provided by a New York State licensed Dental Hygienist who is on the staff of North Country Family Health Center.

## **What Does it Cost?**

There are no out of pocket expenses for preventative services. If there is insurance associated with the student we will bill insurance to cover our expenses.

## **Who is Eligible for the Program?**

Any student may receive preventive dental care. If you have a family dentist, your child can still get preventive care (dental screenings, cleanings, sealants, and fluoride treatments) at school.

There are no eligibility or income requirements.

We treat Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade. All you have to do is enroll your child in the dental program. Enrollment forms will be distributed to every student and are also available on our website, [www.NoCoFamilyHealth.org](http://www.NoCoFamilyHealth.org).

## **How are Appointments Scheduled?**

Once the enrollment form has been returned to school, parents will be contacted before your child is scheduled for a visit. Students will be called down to the dental program area for their appointment. We always try to avoid a core subject or special activity when scheduling your child's appointment.

## **Can I Come to My Child's Appointment?**

Parents are always welcome to come, but it is not necessary. Appointments typically last 20 minutes. After each visit, the student will receive a goody bag filled with oral hygiene supplies, and a note discussing the outcome of the appointment. If there are any concerns a phone call home will be made.

**It's important to keep your  
teeth healthy!**

